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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
ACCORDING TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)**

APPLICANT(S): Osamu Aoki, et al.      DOCKET NO: P06,0070  
SERIAL NO.: 10/579,668      ART UNIT: 2186  
FILED: May 17, 2006      EXAMINER:  
CONF. NO. 9380  
TITLE: INVALIDITY MONITORING PROGRAM, INVALIDITY MONITORING  
METHOD AND INVALIDITY MONITORING SYSTEM

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98, Applicant respectfully requests that a citation and examination of the references identified on the attached PTO/SB/08 form be made during the course of examination of the above-identified application for United States Patent.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) and before the latter occurrence of:

- (1) three months from the filing date of a national application;
- (2) three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application; or
- (3) the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

**REMARKS**

The attached PTO/SB/08 form lists related art references for the above identified application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(ii), no copies of the U.S. patent documents are being supplied herewith, but will be provided upon request.

**EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE**


References AA-AG are Japanese patents that were cited in the International

Search Report. An English-language translation of the abstracts has been provided, and a full translation of these documents will be produced upon request of the Examiner.

The filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in the present Information Disclosure Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).


The above citation of related art is not a representation that such art constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of all pertinent related art, nor that it necessarily includes the closest or most relevant art. The aforementioned citation comprises a voluntary citation of related art of which applicant and his attorney are presently aware and is not intended to serve as a substitute for the Examiner's own search.

Submitted by,

 (Reg. No. 45,877)  
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#### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on Feb. 28, 2007





Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet	1	of	1
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**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/579,668
Filing Date	May 17, 2006
First Named Inventor	Osamu Aoki
Art Unit	2186
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	P06.0070

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

**Examiner  
Signature**

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/579,668
Filing Date	May 17, 2006
First Named Inventor	Osamu Aoki
Art Unit	2186
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	P06.0070

Sheet	2	of	2
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## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> *Number <sup>4</sup> *Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	AG	JP 2003-296193	10/17/2003	Seiko Instruments Inc.		Ab

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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